

DISSENSIONS BETWEEN THE NORTH AND SOUTH.

PETITION

OF

THE COMMITTEE OF THIRTY-THREE,

APPOINTED AT

The workingmen's mass meeting, held in Philadelphia, in Independence square, Saturday evening, January 26, 1861.

JANUARY 30, 1861.—Referred to the select committee of five, and ordered to be printed.

To the House of Representatives of the United States:

The petition of the undersigned committee of Philadelphia workingmen, without distinction of party, respectfully sheweth: That they earnestly pray your honorable body to pass the resolutions introduced by the Hon. Mr. Crittenden, of Kentucky, a copy of which is hereunto annexed, or resolutions embodying the same principles and measures, believing that this course will be acceptable to your constituents in all sections of our country, and will have the effect of allaying the present unhappy excitement.

Resolutions introduced into the Senate of the United States, by the Hon. Mr. Crittenden, of Kentucky, on the 18th of December, 1860.

Whereas alarming dissensions have arisen between the northern and southern States as to the rights to the common territory of the United States, it is eminently desirable and proper that such dissensions should be settled by the constitutional provisions which give equal justice to all sections, whereby to restore peace: Therefore—

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives, That the following articles be proposed and submitted as an amendment to the Constitution, which shall be valid as a part of the Constitution when ratified by conventions of three-fourths of the people of the States.

First. In all the territories now or hereafter acquired north of latitude 36 degrees 40 minutes slavery or involuntary servitude,

except punishment for crime, shall be prohibited, while south of that latitude it shall remain; and in all territory south of that latitude slavery is hereby recognized as existing, and not to be interfered with by Congress, but be protected as property by all departments of the territorial government during its continuance as a territory. When territory north or south of such line, within such boundaries as Congress may prescribe, shall contain the population necessary for a member of Congress, with a republican form of government, it shall be admitted into the Union on an equality with the original States, with or without slavery, as the constitution of the State may prescribe.

Second. Congress shall have no power to abolish slavery in places under its jurisdiction, or in States permitting slavery.

Third. Congress shall have no power to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia while it exists in Virginia or Maryland, or either. Congress shall never, at any time, prohibit the officers of the government, or members of Congress, whose duties require them to live in the District of Columbia, and bringing slaves, from holding them as such.

Fourth. Congress shall have no power to hinder the transportation of slaves from one State to another, whether by land, navigable rivers, or sea.

Fifth. Congress shall have power by law to pay the owner who shall apply, the full value of the fugitive slave in all cases when the marshal is prevented from discharging his duty, by force or rescue, made after the arrest. In all such cases the United States shall have power to sue the county in which such violence or rescue is made, and the county shall have the right to sue the individuals who committed the wrong in the same manner as the owner could sue.

Sixth. No future amendments shall affect the preceding articles, and Congress shall never have power to interfere with slavery in the States where it is now permitted.

J. W. Van Houten.
Thos. McDonough.
Wm. Oddyke.
James Christy.
Joseph L. Travis.
John Keesey.
David Conard.
Robert J. Magee.
Frank B. Smith.
Chas. W. Fraley.
Stephen B. Whiting.
Henry Osmond, jr.
Joseph Armstrong.
Jos. B. Conran.
A. W. Suplee.
Joseph B. Hancock.
Hiram Gaiton.

Francis Reilly.
Henry Kearney.
George Austin.
J. D. Smith.
E. P. Molineaux.
E. W. Shippen.
James B. Nicholson.
C. W. Hawkins.
Benjamin F. Larry.
Augus. N. Morpheeson.
J. Blakely.
Philip Lowry, jr.
William H. Cowgill.
Wm. F. Blundin.
Monro M. Murphy.
J. Page Nicholson.